

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on June 9, 2005. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 32, 35, 39, 43, 47, and 52 are amended. Please cancel claims 29-31, 33-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-51 without prejudice. Claims 32, 35, 39, 43, 47, and 52 remain pending.

Claims 29-31, 33-38, 40-46, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Ostrovsky et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,447,530. Please note that claims 29-31, 33-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-51 are cancelled. Please also note that because the independent claims from which claims 35, 43, and 52 depend from are all cancelled, claims 35, 43, and 52 are now amended into independent form. Regarding claims 35, 43, and 52, each of these claims recites "further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter". This step is supported, for example, by Figures 1-3. The Examiner indicated that this step is shown in Figures 33-35 of Ostrovsky et al. It is not clear what the Examiner is equating with the stabilizing shaft or how these figures teach the recited step. This is because it does not appear as though a stabilizing shaft is engaged with the filter in Figures 33-35 of Ostrovksy et al. Instead, Figures 33-35 appear to show retraction of a filter into a catheter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35, 43, and 52 are patentable over Ostrovsky et al.

Claims 32, 39, and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Each of these claims is now

amended into independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the objection.

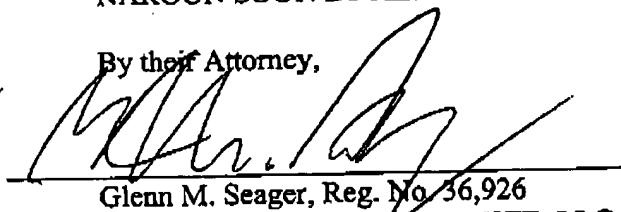
Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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